

SEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DISPENSARY
FOR
SKIN DISEASES,
No. 216 South Eleventh Street,
Between Locust and Walnut Sts.,
PHILADELPHIA.

*An Institution for the Gratuitous Medical Treatment of the
Poor affected with Diseases of the Skin.*

OPEN DAILY, SUNDAYS EXCEPTED, AT 11 O'CLOCK A M.

PHILADELPHIA:
COLLINS, PRINTER, 705 JAYNE STREET.
1878.



SEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DISPENSARY
FOR
SKIN DISEASES,
No. 216 South Eleventh Street,
Between Locust and Walnut Sts.,
PHILADELPHIA.

*An Institution for the Gratuitous Medical Treatment of the
Poor affected with Diseases of the Skin.*

OPEN DAILY, SUNDAYS EXCEPTED, AT 11 O'CLOCK A M.

PHILADELPHIA:
COLLINS, PRINTER, 705 JAYNE STREET.
1878.

THE FOLLOWING FORM IS RECOMMENDED FOR A BEQUEST.

*I give, devise, and bequeath to the DISPENSARY
FOR SKIN DISEASES, PHILADELPHIA,
their successors and assigns
to be applied to the uses and purposes of said corpo-
ration.*

TRUSTEES.

SAMUEL D. GROSS, M.D.,

FREDERIC COLLINS,

HENRY A. DUHRING,

JOHN S. BISPHAM,

CHARLES D. REED.

President.

SAMUEL D. GROSS, M.D.

Secretary and Treasurer.

HENRY A. DUHRING.

Physician-in-Charge.

LOUIS A. DUHRING, M.D.

Assistant Physician.

ARTHUR VAN HARLINGEN, M.D.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from

4

This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries

4

4

4

108

SEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DISPENSARY FOR SKIN DISEASES.

IN presenting their Seventh Annual Report the Trustees are able to congratulate their contributors and friends upon the continued success of the Institution. The principles upon which the Dispensary is founded are gradually becoming more sharply defined, and are now, we may confidently state, well recognized throughout the community. Every philanthropist will rejoice when the treatment of diseases of the skin shall be lifted out of the domain of vulgar empiricism and treated with the scientific precision which belongs to modern investigation and discovery.

As our Institution is entirely charitable, and depends for its enlarged usefulness and even for its very existence upon individual aid, it is of the utmost importance that it should be more widely recognized. Hitherto, it has held its quiet and unobtrusive way almost unknown except to the many whom it has directly benefited. But the time has arrived when it becomes a duty to make its claims more public, so that others by their pecuniary aid may assist in

enlarging its sphere of usefulness. To witness the misery, both physical and mental, resulting from these afflictions, would be to stir the heart to prompt and tangible generosity in behalf of this Institution. In some cases life and death are at stake; in others, months, perhaps long years, of acute suffering and incapacity for work strike the head of the family.

We have on a former occasion gratefully acknowledged the receipt of a handsome sum from the Trustees of the Estate of Jesse George. This we earnestly desire to preserve intact as the nucleus of a building fund, so that we may at no distant day provide the baths and hospital accommodation so requisite to the successful treatment of this class of diseases. Are there not others who will contribute to increase this amount, so that it may be made available for the purposes indicated, or who will at least by their annual contributions help us bear this philanthropic burden?

Donations of any amount will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, No. 144 S. Fourth Street, or by any of the officers of the Institution.

DISPENSARY FOR SKIN DISEASES.

Extracts from the By-Laws.

I. This Institution shall be called "Dispensary for Skin Diseases," and shall consist of Board of Trustees, President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Physician-in-charge.

II. The Dispensary shall have for its object the gratuitous medical treatment of the poor afflicted with diseases of the skin.

III. All funds raised for the Dispensary for Skin Diseases, either in money or property, by donation or bequest, shall be appropriated exclusively for the benefit of the Institution.

IV. The Institution shall be open daily, Sundays excepted, for the reception of patients, at 11 o'clock A. M., under the immediate supervision of the physician.

V. Patients who are able shall purchase their own medicines, whilst those whose circumstances do not permit of this expenditure, shall be supplied gratuitously, subject to the discretion of the physician.

VI. The Institution shall be confined entirely in its objects to the relief of the poor, and to the promotion and advancement of the science of medicine, with reference to the treatment of diseases of the skin.

VII. A register shall be kept by the physician of all cases admitted and treated at the Institution, and the same shall at all times be open for the inspection of the Trustees.

VIII. The Dispensary for Skin Diseases shall be supported by voluntary contributions.

IX. All the offices of the Institution shall be filled gratuitously.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

THE report of the past year, which I have the honor to present to you, shows that our Institution has been in an active state, and that the number of persons who have received its benefits has been quite as large as usual. Those who have sought our advice have with few exceptions been of a class eminently deserving of all the aid that it was in our power to bestow. Many were exceedingly poor and needy, and apart from the diseases with which they were afflicted, were most deserving objects of charity.

The diseases encountered were varied in their nature, including examples of all of the commoner affections of the skin. The majority were of an inflammatory nature, giving rise to much discomfort and physical suffering, and in many instances to personal disfigurement. Certainly no class of diseases calls more urgently upon the community of a large city for a special institution than diseases of the skin. It is only, indeed, where special provision is made for their care that they can receive the attention so necessary for their cure.

The following statement shows the number of patients admitted to the Dispensary, as well as other statistics of interest:—

Number of new cases treated	370
Number of visits made to the Dispensary	2146
Average daily attendance	7

Of the whole number of cases there were—

Males	203	American birth . . .	246
Females	167	Irish “ . . .	81
Adults	294	English “ . . .	23
Children	76	German “ . . .	11
Colored	13	Other nationalities . .	9

From the foregoing tables we note that nearly four hundred new cases received treatment. Of these there were about an equal number of males and females. Seventy-six were children, many of them infants. As we have seen, all nationalities were represented, there being however an unusually large percentage of American birth.

The results of treatment were as follows:—

Cured	128
Relieved, but ceased attending	118
Failed to report the result of treatment	85
Still under treatment	39

Of those who placed themselves regularly under treatment we find that one hundred and twenty-eight were entirely cured. One hundred and eighteen are recorded as having been relieved; without doubt many of these were completely relieved, but for reasons known only to

themselves they did not report their ultimate condition of health. The same remark applies with equal force to those who having been placed upon treatment failed to attend the Institution. On the other hand, it may be stated that one of the many pleasing incidents in our experience is the increasing number of patients who return for the purpose of gratefully acknowledging their restoration to health.

The accompanying table has been prepared to show the occupations of those admitted:—

Domestics . . .	102	Blacksmiths . . .	4
School children . . .	34	Masons . . .	4
Laborers . . .	20	Tin-roofers . . .	3
Shoemakers . . .	16	Engine-drivers . . .	3
Seamstresses . . .	13	Painters . . .	3
Clerks . . .	13	Saddlers . . .	3
Mill-hands . . .	12	Coachmen . . .	3
Carpenters . . .	9	Cigar-makers . . .	3
Machinists . . .	8	Moulders . . .	3
Store-girls . . .	6	Porters . . .	2
Printers . . .	6	Street-car conductors . . .	2
Weavers . . .	6	Sailors . . .	2
Waiters . . .	5	Washerwomen . . .	2
Watchmen . . .	5	Miscellaneous . . .	74
Bakers . . .	4		

The prescriptions have, as in former years, been satisfactorily compounded by Mr. J. P. Remington, corner of Walnut and Thirteenth Streets, at a trifle above the actual cost of the drugs. In many instances medicines were given gratuitously, at the expense of the Institution.

In conclusion, I desire to express my high appreciation of the professional services of Dr. Van Harlingen, without whose assistance during the past year it would have been quite impossible to have carried on so successfully our work.

Submitted by

LOUIS A. DUHRING,

Physician-in-charge.

TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1877.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand January 1, 1877 . . .	\$311 75*	
Amount received from contributors . . .	349 92	
Interest on Building Fund . . .	51 06	
	<hr/>	\$712 73

EXPENDITURES.

Rent, attendance, and fuel	\$334 57	
Printing annual report, advertising, and stationery	41 45	
Medicines	54 40	
	<hr/>	\$430 42
Balance on hand	282 31	
	<hr/>	\$712 73

H. A. DUHRING,

Treasurer.

* By order of the Trustees the sum of \$1500 has been set aside as a Building Fund. Contributions to this fund will be thankfully received and appropriated as directed.

